

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH GENERAL SPINOLA

WHITEHOUSE PASS TO AIR FORCE 1 FOR GEN. SCOWCROFT

1. PLEASE ADD FOLLOWING ITEM AS UPDATE TO PRESIDENT'S
BRIEFING BOOK FOR JUNE 19 MEETING WITH GENERAL SPINOLA.

2. AS A NEW CONTINGENCY TALKING POINT ADD:
STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS
ANALYSIS/BACKGROUND

THE PORTUGUESE ASKED US IF WE REGARDED THE CAPE VERDE
ISLANDS TO BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. IF WE DO, IT
WILL REINFORCE THE GOP'S OWN INCLINATION THAT THE
ISLANDS ARE STRATEGICALLY VITAL AND THIS CONSIDERATION
WILL INFLUENCE THE PORTUGUESE IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE PAIGC, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN PORTUGUESE
GUINEA, TO DEMAND THAT THE ISLANDS BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY
FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA. THE PAIGC LEADERSHIP IS DOMINATED
BY CAPE VERDEANS, EVEN THOUGH THE ISLANDS ARE APPROXIMA-
TELY 500 MILES OFF THE AFRICAN COAST AND NO INSURGENT

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ACTIVITY HAS EVER OCCURRED THERE.

PORTUGAL HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE CAPE VERDEANS TO BE MORE PORTUGUESE THAN AFRICAN. ETHNICALLY AND HISTORICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PEOPLES OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA, THE CAPE VERDEANS ARE GOVERNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE

METROPOLE (AS ARE THE AZORES AND MADEIRA) WHEREAS THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES WERE ADMINISTERED BY THE OVERSEAS MINISTRY. BASED UPON OUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE, WE BELIEVE THAT A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN CONTINUED CAPE VERDEAN TIES TO PORTUGAL.

FROM THE US VIEWPOINT:

THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS OFFER AN EXCELLENT POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR THE CONDUCT OF ASW SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC, INCLUDING THE APPROACHES TO GIBRALTAR AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. CURRENT USE, HOWEVER, IS LIMITED TO OCCASIONAL REFUELING STOPS BY ASW AIRCRAFT. THE ISLANDS COULD, IF OTHER FACILITIES WERE DENIED TO US, BE USEFUL AS A STAGING AREA. MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL US USE OF THE CAPE VERDES IS OUR CONCERN THAT THE ISLANDS NOT BE USED BY FORCES HOSTILE TO THE WEST. SUCH FORCES COULD EMPLOY THE ISLANDS AS A BASE FOR SURVEILLANCE OF NATO FORCES IN THE ATLANTIC, TO DISRUPT OR INTERDICT IMPORTANT NATO LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN TIME OF WAR AND TO SUPPORT CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS BY SUCH FORCES IN WEST AFRICA.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

(IF SPINOLA RAISES THE CAPE VERDE QUESTION) EMPHASIZE TO HIM, THAT, WHILE WE HAVE NO PRESENT INTEREST IN BROADENING OUR OCCASIONAL USE OF THE CAPE VERDES, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED SHOULD THEY BE USED BY FORCES HOSTILE TO THE WEST. SISCO

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